



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 7

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – May 2012

DATE: May 2, 2012

W.I. 1114

MTC Annual Report

Titled “On the Job,” MTC's 2011 annual report is a salute to Bay Area transportation workers, featuring photographic portraits of the men and women who are working hard to provide today's transportation services and build tomorrow's improvements. The MTC 2011 Annual Report also contains MTC's financial statements for fiscal year 2010-11.

Copies of the report will be available for you at your May 9th meeting. It may also be viewed and downloaded from MTC's web site at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/AnnualReport-11/> or ordered from the MTC Library: 510.817.5836, or library@mtc.ca.gov while supplies last.

Bike to Work Day

The San Francisco Bay Area's 18th annual Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 10, 2012. The event is part of National Bike Month, and all nine Bay Area counties will participate in the annual celebration.

More than one million Bay Area residents live within five miles of their workplace, an ideal distance for bicycling. The work commute only represents 23% of all trips, so consider how you also may be able to bike to shop, to school, for errands, and for social events. In a world concerned with climate change, pollution, congestion and wasted time, the question should really be: Why not bike to work?

On Bike to Work Day, Energizer Stations will be located along Bay Area county commute routes where bicyclists can stop for refreshments, giveaways, and bicycling information or simply be 'cheered on' by fellow participants. Energizer Stations will be open during morning commute hours and some will even re-open during the evening commute. In addition to the Energizer Stations, the day offers prizes for those who register and pledge to ride. Registration is free, quick and easy, and automatically enters you into a drawing to win a grand prize.

For more information about Energizer Station locations, Bike to Work Week activities and Bike to Work Day "after parties" go to <http://www.youcanbikethere.com/>.

MTC Summer College Internship Program

In addition to its popular High School Internship Program, MTC also has a summer College Internship program. Internships at MTC provide students with the opportunity to gain professional work experience in transportation planning, finance and operational projects. Internships are generally full-time from June through September.

To qualify for an MTC internship, students must be enrolled at least part-time in a four-year undergraduate or graduate level curriculum. Individuals who have already graduated may be considered up to six (6) months post-graduation. MTC is looking for students who possess a professional demeanor, the ability to work effectively with a variety of people, an energetic attitude and self-motivation, excellent organizational and analytical skills and are detail oriented. Pay rate for undergraduate students is \$14.50/hour, and for graduate students is \$18.75/hour.

For more information about the program, including specific job descriptions, closing dates and how to apply, go to <http://jobs.mtc.ca.gov/InternshipOpportunities/jobinternship.html> or contact Ann Macaulay at 510.817.5741 (amacaulay@mtc.ca.gov).

Save the Date for Upcoming Parking Workshops

MTC staff is planning a series of workshops on parking. While I don't yet have all the details, here is a "save the date" for the following meetings:

- Monday, June 11, at VTA in San Jose (will be held in the afternoon)
- Tuesday, June 12, at MTC MetroCenter in Oakland (time TBD)
- Wednesday, June 13, in Walnut Creek (will be held in the afternoon; location TBD)

Details of the workshops will be posted to the MTC web site (www.mtc.ca.gov) once they become available.

From the Executive Director's Report

The following items of interest were in the April 2012 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***AC Transit Fuel Cell Dedication — Emeryville, April 10***
I joined a number of other local officials and dignitaries at a dedication ceremony for AC Transit's fuel cell facility in Emeryville, which will be used both by AC Transit buses and members of the general public with fuel cell private vehicles.
- ***High Speed Rail MOU Approved — San Francisco, April 12***
Chair Tissier and I attended a major milestone meeting for the California High Speed Rail Authority where the board approved its revised business plan for constructing the initial stages of the railroad as well as two memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the Bay Area and Los Angeles regions for parallel investment in the "bookends" that will complement the large initial investment in the Central Valley.
- ***BART Silicon Valley Groundbreaking — San Jose, April 12***
I joined a cast of hundreds at a luncheon and groundbreaking ceremony to mark the commencement of construction for the first phase of the BART extension that will ultimately connect the new Warm Springs station in Alameda County (also under

From the Executive Director's Report (continued)

construction) to downtown San Jose and a final station stop in the City of Santa Clara near San Jose International Airport. The full 16-mile Silicon Valley extension is estimated to cost \$6.3 billion – about the same price as the new east span of the Bay Bridge. Commissioner Haggerty spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony, as did two former MTC commissioners: Assemblyman Jim Beall and Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager.

- ***Antioch Bridge Reaches Seismic Safety — Antioch, April 17***
Vice Chair Rein Worth was on hand at a press event to mark the completion of earthquake retrofit work on the Antioch Bridge. The work was completed \$15 million below budget and a few months early, a welcome change from other bridges in the Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program.
- ***SAFETEA Reauthorization Lurches Forward — Washington, April 18***
Only a few weeks after passing a bill extending the SAFETEA law until June 30th, the House of Representatives last week passed a 10th extension of current law until the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30, 2012. It is expected that Senate leaders may act to designate this latest extension bill (HR 4348) as the companion to the two-year reauthorization legislation that the Senate passed in March (S 1813). If they do so, that would lead to a joint House-Senate conference committee being convened that could produce a final bill to reauthorize SAFETEA after three years of false starts.

However, there are still several flies in the ointment. First, the House bill is really just a “shell” of an authorizing bill. It only contains substantive provisions in the area of environmental streamlining. All other issues such as program categories, state distribution formulas, and how to pay for the highway and transit programs are missing from the House bill because these matters couldn't be resolved within the House Republican caucus. Thus, the Senate negotiators will be bringing a complete bill to the conference table; the House conferees will have a pretty blank piece of paper.

Second, the House bill also includes an extraneous provision that would approve the controversial Keystone oil pipeline, which has drawn a veto threat from the Obama Administration. Finally, by the time it passed last month, S 1813 was not a full two-year bill but only an 18-month authorization. Even if the House-Senate negotiators produce a conference report and it is enacted into law by September 30th, it would only buy us a year's worth of time before the new authorization would expire and we would have to start the process all over again. This long-running reauthorization saga reminds me of what they say about the weather in Scotland: if you don't like it now, just wait a wee while, and it will change again.

Upcoming Events:

May 11 – Special JPC Meeting, Oakland

To read the entire Executive Director's report to the Commission, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.